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JULY MEETING.

A stated monthly meeting was held this day, Thursday, July 12, at noon. In the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, the Hon. NATHAN APPLETON was chosen to preside.

In the absence of the Librarian, the Recording Secretary announced donations from the American Philosophical Society; the Chicago Historical Society; the Connecticut Historical Society; New-Hampshire Asylum for the Insane; Department of State of the United States; B. P. Johnson, Esq.; Hon. Theron Metcalf; C. W. Frederickson, Esq.; Hon. S. G. Arnold; Hon. William Baylies; Rev. E. S. Gannett, D.D.; S. H. Grant, Esq.; C. L. Flint, Esq.; Hon. Henry Wilson; and from Messrs. Green, Quint, Robbins (C.), Sabine, and Webb, of the Society.

The Cabinet-keeper presented small articles, for the cabinet, from several donors.

The Corresponding Secretary communicated a letter from the New-Hampshire Historical Society, requesting the donation of several volumes of the Collections, to complete their set. Referred to the Standing Committee.

The same officer read a letter of acceptance from Charles Eliot Norton, Esq., and also a letter from C. W. Frederickson, Esq., asking the Society's acceptance of several valuable manuscripts and other works. Among the manuscripts is the following letter:—

William Bradford, D.M.M. General, to Colonel Richard Varick.

VALLEY FORGE, April 16, 1778.

SIR,—A few days before your letters of the 23d and 28th ultimo arrived here, Colonel Ward set out for Boston. Agreeable to his

orders, they were delivered to me ; though not till they had been several days in camp, or I should have done myself the pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of them by the express.

Your observations respecting the propriety of Congress making the muster-master a compensation for the extraordinary expenses to which he is subject in the execution of his duty, are perfectly just. I wish the gentlemen at Yorktown were as sensible of the inconveniences to which their parsimony has exposed us as you and I are. But, instead of making provision for such contingencies, the rations which they allow the officers of the department (the head of it excepted) are totally disproportionate to their rank and pay. Were the deputy muster-masters allowed four rations instead of two, I think, as they are now rated, it would, in general, prevent their being "injured by their office." Their forage expenses will no doubt be paid, if they are not extravagantly high. The commissary of forage in this department has always shown a readiness to refund me any reasonable sums which I expend on my horses. The army in this quarter has been so compact, that my deputies, residing constantly with their divisions, have seldom been subject to greater expenses than the rest of the officers ; otherwise Colonel Ward would have made application to Congress for relief. But he was unwilling to call their attention to this matter till he could suggest, that his officers not only might, but really did, suffer for want of a more generous salary, or a proper provision for extraordinary contingencies.

You mention, that, at the last muster of Hazen's Regiment, soldiers not joined were returned on furlough ; and those doing duty, and enlisted in other regiments, on command. Both these were contrary to the directions given by the officer of musters, and to the orders frequently issued by the General. To make such a return, indicates either a gross inattention to orders, or a disingenuous attempt to impose on the muster-master. You may well be surprised at the numbers returned sick in hospital. I have met with many instances where men have been borne on the rolls several months after they were dead, or discharged from hospital ; no returns being made by the surgeons. I have more than once, though without any authority for so doing, directed a number, who had not been heard of for a considerable time, to be struck off. I frequently reported this matter to Colonel Ward, who as often mentioned it to the General. His excellency attempted to remedy the inconvenience by ordering

immediate and complete returns from the hospitals ; but the removal of the sick from place to place, the loss of some hospital-books, and other circumstances, prevented those returns from answering the end intended. He has now sent a general officer round to the different hospitals ; and, when he returns, I expect that orders will be given to strike off all those who cannot be heard of.

As to prisoners, Colonel Ward, in his printed instructions, directs, that, having been once returned, they are not to be inserted in any subsequent roll until they join their regiment ; in which case, the time of their capture, and that of their return, are to be mentioned. The reason is, that Congress has directed that prisoners should be made up in the pay-roll to the day of their being taken, and not drawn for again until they return from confinement ; and, as the muster-roll is intended to govern the pay-roll, Colonel Ward conceived there was a propriety in making them agree.

In your last returns, I observe that you have not inserted the time for which the men are enlisted. This, Colonel Ward has directed, should be constantly done ; and the want of it in the regimental abstracts from your department will prevent its being inserted in the general abstract as usual. Thus much for business.

As to news, I wish I could inform you of our being in a condition to give the enemy *their quietus*. Our re-enforcements arrive slowly. The Southern States, I fear, will not deserve the praises which have been lavished on them ; and this part of the continent has made no exertions adequate to the exigencies of the times. The success at Saratoga, which should have inspired our ambition and industry, has operated as an opiate, and lulled us to sleep. The enemy here are in no condition to make a vigorous push : they will be content to remain unmolested. Strange that such powers as Britain and America, contending for such objects as dominion and freedom, should have such contemptible armies in the field !

General Howe will sail for England in a few days, and Harry Clinton will command at Philadelphia. I am not well enough acquainted with Clinton's character to know whether this circumstance will be in our favor or against us.

I am, sir, your very humble servant,

WILL. BRADFORD, Jun., *D.M.M. General.*

P.S. — Colonel Ward will return to camp about the middle or end of next month.

W. B., Jun.

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Mr. Frederickson for his valuable and interesting contribution to the library.

The Standing Committee, to whom the letter of Mr. Stone, of Providence, offering relics taken from the grave of Roger Williams, was referred, reported through their chairman the following reply: —

Rev. EDWIN M. STONE.

SIR, — The Massachusetts Historical Society have the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 22d of June, and return you their thanks for your present of the "Providence Journal" containing a highly interesting paper read by Z. Allen, Esq., before the Rhode-Island Historical Society, relating to Roger Williams, and the exhumation of his remains; and of a map showing the site of his residence and burial-place. With regard to four other articles kindly offered by you, while we all share your desire to do honor to that early and venerated champion of civil and religious liberty, Roger Williams, it appears, nevertheless, to be the prevailing opinion of the members of the Society, that it would be a departure from the nature and design of their institution to become the depository of sepulchral relics, which, independently of collateral proof, like other substances of the kind, have no special significance to awaken the remembrance of the dead; and, what is more material, do not in any sense illustrate, or bear any relation to, the proper subjects of history, — the characters and actions of living men.

While acknowledging, therefore, the kind motive which led you to forward these (to you) valuable and interesting relics, the Society feel bound to add, that they cannot undertake to guard them with that care which other better authenticated and more appropriate memorials of the past always claim at their hands.

(Signed)

CHARLES DEANE,
Chairman of Standing Committee.

22d JUNE, 1860.

Voted, That the letter of the Standing Committee to Mr. Stone be accepted, as embodying the views of the Society; and that a copy of the same be sent to him by the Librarian.

Mr. ELLIS reported the success of a commission intrusted to him some few years ago, relating to certain Belknap papers written between the years 1779 and 1798; and expressed the opinion, that these papers would ultimately come into the possession of this Society, and probably at no very distant period.

AUGUST MEETING.

A stated monthly meeting was held this day, Thursday, Aug. 8, at noon. In the absence of the President and Vice-Presidents, the Hon. NATHAN APPLETON was chosen to preside.

In the absence of the Librarian, the Recording Secretary announced donations from the Chicago Historical Society; Connecticut Historical Society; Massachusetts Colonization Society; Mercantile-Library Association of New York; Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries; Miss Frances Clark; Dean Dudley, Esq.; J. N. Carrigan, Esq.; Hon. Charles T. Russell; Rev. E. M. Stone; and from Messrs. Everett, Green, Robbins (C.), Sibley, Webb, Wheatland, and Whitney, of the Society.

The Cabinet-keeper presented a half-crown stamp as a gift to the cabinet, from T. B. Lawrence, Esq.

Mr. SOMERBY, a Corresponding Member, communicated the following extracts which he had copied from